

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 FEA-02 INT-08 CIEP-02

AID-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 EA-11 CEA-02 DRC-01 /180 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5109

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FOR T/IEP ALSO DEPT WASHDC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN NEED FOR INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS

REF: TEHRAN 0115

1. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS OF SUCCESS BRITISH/IRANIAN TALKS CONCERNING POSSIBLE PROVISION BY THE UK OF QUANTITIES OF RAW MATERIALS NEEDED FOR IRANIAN INDUSTRIES IN RETURN FOR OIL, SEVERAL IRANIAN BUSINESSMEN IN PRIVATE TALKS WITH EMBOFF HAVE INDICATED DEEP IRRITATION WITH BRITISH. IRANIAN UNHAPPINESS ARISES FROM FACT THAT BRITISH OFFERS ARE VERY UNSPECIFIC AT PRICES THAT ARE THREE OR FOUR TIMES PREVAILING WORLD PRICES. BRITISH DESIRE TO ACHIEVE ASSURED SUPPLY OF PETRO-CHEMICAL FEED STOCKS AND CRUDE OIL WERE CLEARLY OF PRIME CONSIDERATION WHILE THE NEED TO SATISFY IRAN'S INDUSTRIAL REQUIREMENTS WAS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE.

2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH CODEL FANNIN, NIOC
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ALTERNATE DIRECTOR PARVIZ MINA, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT, SAID THAT THE PRESENT EFFORTS

WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY. MINA CONTINUED THAT HE PRESUMED THAT WHEN THE MINISTRY HAD COMPLETED ITS TALKS THEY WOULD INQUIRE WHETHER OR NOT THE NIOC COULD PROVIDE GIVEN QUANTITIES OF CRUDE AND OTHER FEED STOCKS. HE ADDED THAT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1974, IT WILL BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR NIOC TO TAKE ON ANY ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS. BEGINNING WITH THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1974, IF ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TERMS SURFACED, THE NIOC MIGHT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING THE QUID FOR THE QUO IN ANY BARTER ARRANGEMENTS THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY MIGHT NEGOTIATE.

3. COMMENT: IF MINA'S COMMENT IS LITERALLY TRUE, THEN ALL THE SCURRYING AROUND BY THE BRITISH, JAPANESE, AND OTHERS AS WELL AS OUR OWN BUSINESSMEN MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE FRUITLESS.

4. UNION CARBIDE SUBMITTED AN ADDITIONAL LIST OF CHEMICALS REQUIRED FOR IRAN'S PAINT INDUSTRY TO THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY ON JANUARY 12. THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION FROM THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY TO UNION CARBIDE'S PROPOSALS.

5. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM DEPONT'S GENEVA OFFICE INFORMING US OF AN OFFER OF 48 MILLION POUNDS OF ARTIFICIAL FIBERS IN RETURN FOR 600,000 TONS OF CRUDE OIL. AGAIN NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM MIN/ECON.
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Message Attributes

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